

REMARKS

The present filing is responsive to the Examiner's concerns noted in the Office Action.

Summary of the Response

Claims 3, 5, 14 and 16 have been amended. Claim 20 has been added. Claims 1-20 remain pending in this application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the present application as amended are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC 102

Claims 1-6, 8-17 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by JP09105958 (hereinafter '958). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

On the outset, Applicant notes it appears that the Examiner had confused the layered structures between an angle-of-view adjustable component 1 and a liquid crystal display component 18. The components 1 and 18 have separate liquid crystal cells/layers, and associated structures. It appears the Examiner referred to structures of the liquid crystal display component 18 to correspond to structures of the angle-of-view adjustable component 1 throughout the office action. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to refer to corresponding structures directed to the corresponding components in further examination of this case.

The Examiner referred to Fig. 10 to assert parallel rubbing directions of the recited viewing angle controlling unit recited in claims 1 and 12. Applicant notes that the rubbing directions 19 and 20 identified in Fig. 10 refer to the rubbing directions of the liquid crystal cell in the liquid crystal display component 18, not of the angle-of-view adjustable component 1.

Even referring to the rubbing directions 19 and 20, they are perpendicular to each other.

Independent claims 1 and 12 are therefore not anticipated by '958.

Given the patentability of independent claims 1 and 12, all dependent claims should likewise be patentable. The dependent claims adds further limitations that further distinguish the present invention from the prior art.

For example dependent claims 5 and 16 recite: "optical axes of said pair of polarized plates are substantially parallel to said rubbing directions". (It follows that the optical axes of the pair of polarized plates are substantially parallel to each other, or in a parallel Nicols way.) '958 does not anticipate this structure. The Examiner asserted that '958 disclose a parallel Nicols structure, by referring to Figs. 3 and 13 in '958. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

More specifically, Fig. 3 in '958 shows a liquid crystal display 38 having an angle-of-view adjustable component 1 and a display component 18. The polarizers 9 and 10 are outside of the view angle-of-view adjustable component 1 and liquid crystal component 18, with optical axes perpendicular to each other. Fig. 13 in '958 shows a conventional view angle controllable liquid crystal display, having an angle-of-view adjustable component having polarizers 31 and 32 with optical axes perpendicular to each other, a liquid crystal cell 36 of the display component in addition to the angle-of-view adjustable component, and a single polarizer 33 on the side of the cell 36 away from the angle-of-view adjustable component. There is no discussion of the rubbing direction of alignment films in either the angle-of-view adjustable component 1 in Fig. 3 or the liquid crystal cell 35 of the angle-of-view adjustable component in Fig. 13. In fact, the Examiner did not point out the rubbing directions of the alignment films of the angle-of-view adjustable components in Figs. 3 and 13. Instead, the Examiner referred to Fig. 10 to assert rubbing directions. As Applicant noted earlier, the rubbing directions 19 and 20 identified in

Fig. 10 refer to the rubbing directions of the liquid crystal cell in the liquid crystal display component 18, not of the angle-of-view adjustable component 1. Even referring to the rubbing directions 19 and 20, they are perpendicular to each other.

'958 discloses various embodiments of structuring liquid crystal display 38 that include at least one angle-of-view adjustable component 1 and a liquid crystal display component 18. From the discussion above, it appears that the Examiner selectively relied on different structures in at least three (3) different individual embodiments disclosed in '958 as to construct a structure corresponding to that defined in claims 5 and 16. For example, the Examiner referred to the embodiments of Fig. 3, Fig. 10 and the conventional embodiment of Fig. 13. Applicant notes that the embodiment of Fig. 3 shows only one angle-of-view adjustable component 1, Fig. 10 shows two angle-of-view adjustable components 1, and Fig. 13 shows a conventional structure. These embodiments refer to specific optical structures with specific intended optical interactions between layers, which are different from the specific intended optical interactions in other embodiments.

Accordingly, it would be improper for the Examiner to "cherry pick" different structures from the different embodiments and combine such cherry picked structures to construct a structure to conform to the claimed structured of the present invention. It is unreasonable to simply mix and match different components in different distinct embodiments disclosed in '958, without specific disclosure of the anticipated result of doing so, to obtain a combination that renders obvious the recited invention. There is no express or implied disclosure anywhere in '958 that such combination would produce an operative combination. The different embodiments take mutually exclusive structures, to teach away from combining them. Those skilled in the art would find it illogical and/or physically impossible to combine structures

selectively taken from the different embodiments of Figs. 3, 10 and 13 in the manner proposed only by the Examiner. In fact, given the strained combination of structures from different embodiments as proposed by the Examiner, it appears the Examiner actually ran into difficulty attempting to match structures to correspond to the structure defined in the claims.

Applicant notes that even if the embodiments can and should be combined in the manner proposed by the Examiner, none of the individual embodiments in '958 teach rubbing directions of alignment films that are parallel to each other, as recited in previously presented claims 1 and 12, or "optical axes of said pair of polarized plates are substantially parallel to said rubbing directions (which are parallel to each other)", as required by new dependent claim 20.

Should the Examiner reject the claims 1 and/or 12 based on a new ground of rejection in the next action, such next action should not be made final, as such new ground of rejection would not have been necessitated by the present amendment.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC 103

Claims 7 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over '958 as applied to claims above. This rejection is respectfully traversed given the patentability of the base claims 1 and 12.

CONCLUSION

In view of all the foregoing, Applicant submits that the claims pending in this application are patentable over the references of record and are in condition for allowance. Such action at an early date is earnestly solicited. **The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned representative to discuss any outstanding issues that may not have been adequately addressed in this response.**

The Assistant Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this transmittal and associated documents, or to credit any overpayment to **Deposit Account No. 501288** referencing the attorney docket number of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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